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Chairman: Mr. Butagira ..... (Uganda)

Contents

Agenda item 39: Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions (*continued*)

Agenda item 69: Elimination of racism and racial discrimination (*continued*)

(a) Elimination of racism and racial discrimination (*continued*)

Agenda item 70: Right of peoples to self-determination (*continued*)

Agenda item 71: Human rights questions (*continued*)

(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms (*continued*)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 39: Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions (*continued*) (A/C.3/60/L.61 and L.65)

Draft resolution A/C.3/60/L.61: Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

1. **Mr. Hyassat** (Jordan), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the original sponsors, said they had been joined by Timor-Leste. He hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted without a vote, as in previous years.

Draft resolution A/C.3/60/L.65: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

2. **Ms. Lintonen** (Finland), said that Azerbaijan had withdrawn from the list of original sponsors and that they had been joined by Angola, the Central African Republic, China, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ghana, Hungary, Indonesia, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Malawi, Peru, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. She hoped that it would be adopted by consensus. The purpose of the draft resolution was to reaffirm the support of the General Assembly for the High Commissioner's Office while providing it with policy guidelines. In paragraph 5, the words from "international community" to the end of the paragraph were to be deleted. Paragraph 9 was also to be deleted and the following paragraphs to be renumbered accordingly. She hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

Agenda item 69: Elimination of racism and racial discrimination (*continued*)

(a) Elimination of racism and racial discrimination (*continued*) (A/C.3/60/L.60)

Draft resolution A/C.3/60/L.60: Inadmissibility of certain practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

3. **Mr. Lukyantsev** (Russian Federation), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/60/L.60 on behalf of the original sponsors as well as Tajikistan, said that his delegation noted with concern the rise of various extremist groups, including neo-Nazis and skinheads. Persons who took part in Nazist manifestations, including Nazi veterans, must not be made into heroes or their crimes whitewashed. The draft resolution was particularly relevant in the light of the sixtieth anniversary of the Second World War victory. Furthermore, the inauguration of monuments to Nazis and declaration of the days of liberation from Nazism as days of mourning as well as the arrest of anti-Fascists for the sake of Nazi parades made the need for the draft resolution all the more urgent.

4. The draft resolution concerned current and very dangerous manifestations of racism which must be confronted at all levels. It was not a country-specific resolution but rather a thematic one oriented towards cooperation and dialogue. Its adoption would contribute significantly to the elimination of racism and related phenomena.

Agenda item 70: Right of peoples to self-determination (*continued*) (A/C.3/60/L.59 and L.62)

Draft resolution A/C.3/60/L.59: Right of peoples to self-determination

5. **Mr. Hussain** (Pakistan), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, said that the right to self-determination was the most basic collective right and the indispensable foundation of all human rights. Because of its universal character, the draft resolution thereon had traditionally been adopted by consensus. He hoped that that would again be the case.

Draft resolution A/C.3/60/L.62: The right of the Palestinian people to self-determination

6. **Mr. Elbadri** (Egypt), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, said that the Palestinian people epitomized the need for an honest and clear application of the right to self-determination. Israel's recent withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank was a step in the right direction,

but it should be seen as just one element in the road map towards the creation of a viable Palestinian State. He looked forward to the draft resolution being adopted by consensus.

7. The sponsors had been joined by Albania, Austria, Bangladesh, China, Cyprus, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Estonia, Iraq, Kenya, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Namibia, Nigeria, Poland, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Switzerland, Tunisia and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

Agenda item 71: Human rights questions (*continued*)

(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms (*continued*) (A/C.3/60/L.29, L.31, L.43, L.49, L.50, L.52/Rev.1, L.54, L.55, L.56 and L.57)

Draft resolution A/C.3/60/L.29: Combating defamation of religions

8. **Mr. Saeed** (Yemen), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of States members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, said that its purpose was to combat the false link between Islam, the violation of human rights and terrorism and to ensure a dialogue between peoples and cultures. He called for the draft resolution to be adopted by consensus.

Draft resolution A/C.3/60/L.31: Globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights

9. **Mr. Elbadri** (Egypt) introduced the draft resolution on behalf of the original sponsors and Angola, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, China, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ghana, Indonesia, Madagascar, Myanmar, Namibia, Nigeria, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa and Uzbekistan. He said that the draft resolution, as orally revised, was aimed at addressing the ramifications of globalization for humanity. The purpose was not to pass judgement on globalization but rather to understand it better. The sponsors believed that it was possible to bridge differences in views on the human rights aspects of globalization and had renewed negotiations on that issue.

Draft resolution A/C.3/60/L.43: Strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization

10. **Mr. Siv** (United States of America) introduced the draft resolution on behalf of the original sponsors and Ecuador, El Salvador, Fiji, Finland, Guatemala, Indonesia, Iraq, Kenya, Lithuania, Malta, Nigeria, the Republic of Korea, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Turkey and Ukraine. He said that the draft resolution recognized the important role played by the United Nations in electoral assistance. Such assistance could support the fair and transparent implementation of electoral laws and practices in accordance with international standards. Since 1989, the United Nations had received over 140 requests for electoral assistance and had provided technical, administrative, legal and human rights advice and support. The United Nations had also been integral in the electoral process as part of comprehensive peacekeeping operations. It was hoped that the United Nations Democracy Fund would provide grants which complemented that good work.

Draft resolution A/C.3/60/L.49: Promotion of peace as a vital requirement for the full enjoyment of all human rights by all

11. **Mr. Cumberbach** (Cuba), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the original sponsors and Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Eritrea, the Gambia, Kenya, Madagascar, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Uzbekistan, said that the text had been updated to reflect the resolution adopted by the Commission on Human Rights.

Draft resolution A/C.3/60/L.50: Respect for the principles of national sovereignty and diversity of democratic systems in electoral processes as an important element for the promotion and protection of human rights

12. **Mr. Cumberbach** (Cuba), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the original sponsors and Cameroon, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kenya, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Namibia, Malaysia and the Russian Federation, said that the text contained a new preambular paragraph which reaffirmed that democracy, sustainable development and respect for human rights and

fundamental freedoms, and good governance at all levels, were interdependent and mutually reinforcing.

Draft resolution A/C.3/60/L.52/Rev.1: The right to food

13. **Mr. Cumberbach** (Cuba) introduced the revised draft resolution on behalf of the original sponsors and Antigua and Barbuda, Austria, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Eritrea, Fiji, the Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Jordan, Lesotho, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malawi, Nepal, Paraguay, the Philippines, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, and Zambia. He said that the revised draft contained several novel elements including the need to address the problems faced by indigenous peoples, the impact of natural disasters and scourges and the need to support national efforts aimed at responding rapidly to the food crises currently occurring across Africa. It also requested the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to abandon policies that negatively impacted the right to food.

Draft resolution A/C.3/60/L.54: Elimination of all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief

14. **Mr. Wood** (United Kingdom) introduced draft resolution A/C.3/60/L.54 on behalf of the original sponsors as well as Argentina, Ecuador, Fiji, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Timor-Leste, Turkey and Ukraine. He said that the current draft had an increased focus on the dialogue among civilizations and also addressed the wish of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief to concentrate on possible tensions among religions and beliefs.

Draft resolution A/C.3/60/L.55: Human rights and cultural diversity

15. **Mr. Alaie** (Islamic Republic of Iran) introduced draft resolution A/C.3/60/L.55 on behalf of the original sponsors as well as Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, India, Kenya, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Uzbekistan. He said that there was an urgent need to promote respect for cultural diversity and different religions against the backdrop of globalization. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization had made valuable efforts to establish the concept of cultural diversity in a legal framework in order to give it more effect at the international level. The draft resolution sought to affirm the importance of the development and preservation of the cultural heritage of all peoples in an international climate of peace, tolerance and mutual respect. The text of the last preambular paragraph had incorporated wording from paragraph 14 of the 2005 World Summit outcome document (General Assembly resolution 60/1).

16. A new preambular paragraph should be added after that paragraph, to read:

> "Acknowledging the importance of fulfilling their obligations to promote universal respect for and observance and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as the importance of respect for and understanding of cultural and religious diversity".

Draft resolution A/C.3/60/L.56: Protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons

17. **Ms. Merchant** (Norway) introduced draft resolution A/C.3/60/L.56 on behalf of the original sponsors as well as Angola, the Central African Republic, Colombia, Cyprus, El Salvador, Iceland, Kenya, Latvia, Luxembourg, the Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey. He said that there were alarmingly high numbers of internally displaced persons throughout the world, a significant portion of whom had become internally displaced owing to natural disasters over the course of the previous 12 months.

Draft resolution A/C.3/60/L.57: Protection of migrants

18. **Ms. Olivera** (Mexico), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/60/L.57 on behalf of the original sponsors as well as Azerbaijan, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Cuba, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Paraguay, Senegal and Uruguay, said that the text addressed the issue of the protection of migrants from a human rights perspective. The draft resolution had also included a gender perspective as women made up an increasing share of migration flows.

The meeting rose at 11.50 a.m.